

18 June 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: Major General Brent Scowcroft  
Deputy Assistant to the President  
for National Security Affairs

SUBJECT : Suggested Message from President Nixon  
to WW II Brazilian Expeditionary Force  
Veterans

Having served with the Brazilian Expeditionary Force in WW II, I am a founding member of the Brazilian equivalent of the VFW. They have just unanimously awarded me their highest award. I intend to go to Rio to receive it on 16 July. This is strongly concurred in by the Ambassador [redacted] particularly in the light of the recent remarks by Representative Wayne Hays who, in opposing military assistance programs, said, "The Brazilians did not get within 500 miles of the front". This has aroused vast indignation in Brazil that could be used against the U.S. Most of this could be undone if I could read to the "Veterans of the Italian Campaign" a short message from the President showing that he recognizes their participation.

25X

The facts are that the Brazilians sent 25,334 soldiers to Italy in WW II and one fighter squadron. They lost 466 dead and had 1577 wounded and 1145 injured. From torpedoes they had 4000 dead. They declared war on August 22, 1942, and were prepared to send 3 Divisions to Italy if we wanted them.

I have attached the draft of a message which I would read after saying, "I bring greetings from a fellow veteran who has made an immeasurable contribution to peace all over the world, The President of the United States, Richard Nixon".

Vernon A. Walters  
Lieutenant General, USA  
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

As we continue our fight for a generation of peace,  
I am delighted to send warm greetings to the Association  
of the Veterans of the Italian Campaign. All Americans  
remember how our Brazilian comrades fought side by  
side with us in Italy on the ground, in the air and all over  
the seas.

We honor your gallant comrades who fell in the  
battle for freedom and we honor you who participated in  
the struggle.

With warm greetings,

Richard Nixon